

PROJECT STATUS REPORT					REPORTING PERIOD		
					February 1954		
1. CRYPTONYM		2. DIVISION OR BRANCH		3. COUNTRY		4. DATE ORIGINALLY APPROVED	
a. Program	b. Project	C/OS-1		Target	Base	a. Program	b. Project
C/OS-1		ROOM NO.		Albania	Greece	22 June 1952	
5. NAME OF CASE OFFICER		EXTENSION		SIGNATURE OF CASE OFFICER DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY			
C/OS-1		1311-6		CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY			
6. TYPE OF PROJECT		FI	PP	PM	SUPPORT	SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B	
7. STATUS		OPERATIONAL		LIQUIDATING		NAZIOL. WAR. ROB. GEN. BND. & CLOSURE ACT	
8. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED		O/S	U.S.	9. FY ALLOTMENT TO DATE		DATE 2007	
U.S. - - - - - FOREIGN NAT'L - - - - - TOTAL		17 63 80	2 2 2	C/OS-1		C/OS-1	

11. Summary

Mission and Plan

Utilization of all available covert assets to exploit the resistance potential in Albania, undermine the Soviet power complex, develop a covert offensive in support of U.S. policy aims in the Balkans, and when feasible, to support a coup d'etat to replace the Communist regime with one acceptable to the West.

Summary

On 27 January, C/OS-1 departed for Rome and Athens to discuss 1954 Albanian operations. In addition, C/OS-1 will visit London, Trieste and Istanbul.

Parilitary

There were no parilitary activities during February.

Political-Psychological

(1) Following consultation with C/OS-1, C/OS-1, and C/OS-1, during their visit in January to Rome and Athens, C/OS-1 field personnel submitted a thorough study of past CIA support of the NCRA and recommendations for the future handling of all relations with the Committee. Headquarters concurred in the field's conclusion that financial support at the high level maintained in the past was no longer justified and that CIA's interests would be better served by the substitution of NCRA salaries and support funds by a straight subsidy fund, to be administered by the NCRA itself. In return for such a subsidy CIA would continue to use the name of the NCRA in its propaganda and agent activities. The C/OS-1 personnel now stationed in Rome would be withdrawn and a new case officer assigned to maintain limited liaison with and control over the NCRA. The new plan would effect a considerable saving for CIA and would eliminate many of the problems created in the past by the close association of the CIA case officer with the members of the NCRA and their problems. The proposals will be put into effect immediately after the British and the NCRA have been informed.

(2) The NCRA political pot continued to boil during February and the efforts by the dissident left-wing faction of the Balli Kombetar party (BK) to sabotage

DOWN GRADE PER
CLASSIFICATION REVIEW DIVISION

33439 the Committee

~~TOP SECRET~~

- 2 -

the Committee were unabated. On 24 February a congress, attended by 39 members of this faction, was held in Naples. A new party central committee, which excluded Mr. Husein Costi, President of the U.A. and of the U.N., and his associates was elected. In addition, Mr. Abec Kupi, leader of the Socialist Party, and Mr. Said Kryeziu, leader of the Peasant Party (Kagranci), both formerly considered supporters of the U.S. position on the broadening of the N.C.A., jointly sent letters to the Secretary of State and the British Foreign Minister requesting that the U.S. and British Governments send a commission to Rome to investigate the high handed tactics used by the U.S. and British representatives there in dealing with Albanian emigre matters. Action taken to discipline recalcitrant elements include the dismissal of four members of the U.A. employed on the clandestine radio in Greece and approval by the Army to the discharge from the Guard Company of the U.A. ring leaders there.

(3) In a meeting in Cairo on 3 February, [] discussed with ex-King Zog the latter's difficulties with the Egyptian authorities and his plans to depart for the U.S. as soon as his affairs permit. Zog stated that the tax officials discovered no irregularities in their inquiry on 25-30 January. Zog was advised that he could expect clearance to leave Egypt within 15 days. The question of customs charges on certain furnishings Zog recently sold is still outstanding but Zog has agreed to leave this matter in the hands of his lawyers and to post a bond at the time of his departure to cover the charges in question if the claims are not adjusted prior to this time. There is no question of custom charges on his jewels since he has disposed of none while in Egypt. With regard to his alleged involvement with members of the Moslem Brotherhood League and other anti-regime personalities, Zog stated that his only contacts with the Moslem Brotherhood had been two courtesy calls made upon him by the former and present leaders of the Brotherhood. Zog denied having engaged in any political activities with the present or former Egyptian Governments. Zog was informed that everything possible was being done to assist him and to facilitate his early departure for the U.S. He was advised that the special entry arrangements made covered only himself and nine members of his family and that it was impossible to make similar arrangements for the balance of his entourage. Zog agreed to avoid publicity and press conferences en route to the U.S. and to make no derogatory statements concerning the Egyptian Government and its treatment of his case. [] obtained Zog's signed statement covering the points of their discussion. Despite the assurances given Zog by the tax officials that clearance to depart could be expected in 15 days, on 25 February Zog reported that he had heard nothing further and that his passport was still in the Ministry of Interior and his gold and jewels still impounded. Proof that his Long Island estate had not been purchased with money exported from Egypt has been demanded by the tax ministry. Zog expressed the belief that this point was not in fact behind the delay in clearance and anxiety as to the real reason for the latest move by the Egyptian authorities.

(4) There were no leaflet flights over Albania during February.

(5) The fortnightly newspaper Shqiperia was printed in Rome on schedule. The digest version for use in air drops was printed in Germany and flown to Athens.

(6) The clandestine radio transmitter located near Athens maintained a regular broadcast schedule during February.

743